

**AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION**

Please replace paragraph 8 of the current specification with the following amended paragraph:

[0008] Referring to FIGURE 3, metal lines 24 and 26 are formed to electrically couple to single contact 20 and plurality of contacts 22, respectively. It may be seen from a plan view of fuse structure 10 in FIGURE 4 that silicide layer 16 has a width  $W_1$ , and metal lines 24 and 26 have a width of  $W_2$ . The widths of silicide layer 16 and metal lines 24 and 26 are such that silicide layer 16 does not exhibit significantly higher resistance than that of metal lines 24 and 26. In an embodiment shown in FIGURE 4, the silicide layer width,  $W_1$ , is preferably ~~[[two]]~~ four to ~~[[three]]~~ eight times larger than the contact width,  $W_3$ , and the metal line width,  $W_2$ , is preferably at least ~~[[four]]~~ two to ~~[[eight]]~~ three times larger than the contact width,  $W_3$ . In comparison, the cross-sectional area of contact 20 is significantly less than that of the metal lines, the silicide layer, or the combined cross-sectional area of the plurality of contacts 22.